

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ORIGIN AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 L-02 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 SY-02 FBIE-00 JUSE-00

SSO-00 INRE-00 /045 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:WBCOOTE:CHG

8/31/73; EXT 29742

APPROVED BY AF - MR NEWSOM

L/AF - MR SPIEGEL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 174770

LIMDIS - FOR CHARGE

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ZA, US

SUBJECT: SOGHOIAN CASE

1. YOU ARE REQUESTED TO PASS FOLLOWING DIRECTLY TO PRESIDENT KAUNDA IF PERSONAL MEETING CAN BE ARRANGED EITHER DIRECTLY, OR IN VIEW YOUR SESSION WITH MARK CHONA THROUGH HIM. IF MEETING WITH KAUNDA NOT POSSIBLE, REQUEST YOU CONVEY MESSAGE THROUGH CHONA.

2. WE SINCERELY REGRET THE UNFORTUNATE PUBLICITY CONCERNING THE ARREST OF MR SOGHOIAN. WE WANT PRESIDENT TO KNOW THAT USG DOES NOT WISH IN ANY WAY TO CREATE EMBARRASSMENT OR PROBLEMS FOR GRZ, FOR WE VALUE HIGHLY OUR RELATIONS WITH HIM AND HIS GOVERNMENT. WE MOST DESIROUS OF AVOIDING ANY ACTIONS WHICH TEND TO DETRACT FROM THIS RELATIONSHIP. WE WOULD LIKE TO ASSURE HIM THAT STATE DEPT WANTS TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE IN SOGHOIAN CASE AND, TO EXTENT IT MAY HAVE ANY CONTROL OVER SITUATION, WILL TRY TO MINIMIZE
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EMBARRASSMENT TO GRZ. PRESIDENT SHOULD BE AWARE, HOWEVER,

THAT THERE ARE LIMITS IN SITUATION OF THIS KIND BEYOND WHICH DEPT CANNOT GO.

3. WE HAVE NO REASON WHATSOEVER TO BELIEVE THAT GRZ HAS ENCOURAGED SOGHOIAN TO DO ANYTHING IN VIOLATION OF US LAW, OR TO DOUBT, AS FAR AS GRZ WAS AWARE, THAT HE WAS ACTING LEGALLY AND PROPERLY TO FULFILL GRZ'S LEGITIMATE REQUESTS.

SOGHOIAN'S ARREST IS IN NO SENSE DIRECTED AGAINST ZAMBIA, BUT AN ACTION TAKEN AGAINST AN AMERICAN CITIZEN WHO IS CHARGED WITH VIOLATING AMERICAN LAWS. WE ARE ADVISED THAT THERE MAY ALSO BE OTHER SENSITIVE ASPECTS OF HIS ACTIVITIES IN THE US WHICH HAVE AROUSED THE ATTENTION OF OUR SECURITY AUTHORITIES. WE KNOW THAT GRZ WOULD NOT CONDONE ANY ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES ON SOGHOIAN'S PART, AND WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THEY WILL UNDERSTAND NEED TO LOOK INTO THESE ACTIVITIES AND TO CLEAR THE CHARGES THROUGH THE NORMAL INVESTIGATIVE PROCESSES.

4. CASE WILL NOW GO BEFORE GRAND JURY WHICH WILL HEAR EVIDENCE PRODUCED BY INVESTIGATION AND DECIDE ON CHARGES. SUCH MATTERS, OF COURSE, ARE WITHIN THE US JUDICIAL SYSTEM AND GRAND JURY DECISION IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE AUTHORITY OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS.

5. WE WILL TRY TO KEEP GRZ AS FULLY INFORMED AS POSSIBLE.

ROGERS

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NNN

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